

Title: **Norwalk Participates in New WISE School Pilot Project**
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Norwalk Participates in New WISE School Pilot Project

Recently Norwalk was selected as a pilot project location for a new school safety initiative called WISE School. (Wi-Fi Internet for School Emergencies) The project was initiated by the Department of Public Safety and leverages the already existing Iowa Communications Network (ICN) that provides high speed broadband internet at schools within the state. The project concept is to provide wireless internet access points at school buildings that allow internet connectivity for first responders who will need efficient internet access during emergency events at the school. The access

points were provided free to the school districts through a partnership between the State and three Wi-Fi technology vendors – Cisco, Aruba and Fortinet.

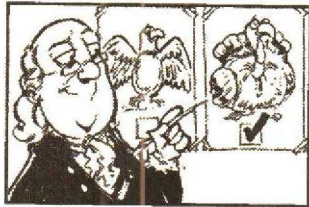
Norwalk public safety vehicles are equipped with on-board computers that currently communicate with the City computer networks through cellular technology. During an emergency, these cellular connections can get overwhelmed and clogged due to increased use of the networks. The WISE – School project will allow our public safety vehicles to connect through a durable and robust high speed internet connection. More

efficient data connections will increase the safety of those present during an incident and increase our public safety official's ability to manage, control and defuse an emergency event.

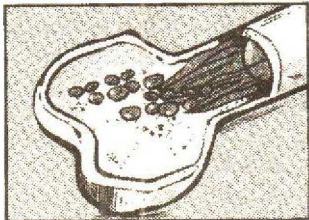
"Only three school districts in the state were selected for the WISE-School pilot project and Norwalk is lucky to be one of them" said Chief Staples of the police department. Staples went on to say that "the availability of the internet access points will encourage patrol officers to spend more time on the school grounds using the dedicated high speed internet to complete reports and

up-load/down-load data into the City computer network and the Westcom computer network. Anytime you can encourage amicable police presence on school grounds it is a good thing".

Currently, the WISE – School internet access points are installed and working at the High School campus only. Since this initiative is still in a pilot phase, over the course of the school year, testing will be done to determine the practicality of expanding the program to other school buildings within Norwalk and in other school districts across the state.



Benjamin Franklin thought the wild turkey—not the bald eagle—was the best choice for the national bird.



Bone marrow, which is found in the hollow of bones, helps to produce new red and white blood cells.